

**Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection**

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

**Date:** May 4, 2006

**Inspector:** Lee Curtis and Diana Walden

**Location:** Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane,  
345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill, and Norwalk Section)

**Storm/**

**Rain Event:** Between 0.9-0.56" of rain was recorded over 5/2-5/3 as reported by NOAA and based on location.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways  <b>Composite</b>	<p>- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Rd by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 5/4/06.</p> <p>- Active clearing was not noted past Archers Lane. Wood chips have been blown off the cleared ROW in some areas. See the vegetative clearing section for more details. 3/2-5/4/06.</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2<sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing on the access road at Archers Lane have remained below problem levels. 5/4/06.</p> <p>- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3<sup>rd</sup></p>	<p>- If necessary, additional measures for stability should be considered for access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, they will need to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-5/4/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 5/4/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. 5/4/06.</p> <p>- The damage should be repaired at the 3<sup>rd</sup></p>	<p>-N/A until evaluation at the end of work.</p> <p>- Still needs attention</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-Needs attention if feasible</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	wetland area 2/16/06. Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/9-5/4/06.	wetland. See erosion control section for more details. 2/16- 5/4/06.	
	- Other work areas are accessed from Hoyts Hill, Chestnut Ridge Rd, the Bethel Res. water plant road, Lime Kiln Rd, Whortleberry Rd, John Todd Way and Costa Lane. Wood chips were placed along a majority of the access roads. 3/29-5/4/06. -Stone dust is used on the access roads at Costa Lane and John Todd Way. 3/2-5/4/06.	-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access roads. If muddy conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 5/4/06.	- N/A at this time
	-Mats are in place in the wetland locations in all of the H-frame sections. Watch the crossings for muddy conditions and monitor erosion controls. 2/22-5/4/06.	- Continue to monitor for muddy conditions and repair controls when necessary. 5/4/06.	-N/A at this time
	- The mat bridge between poles #10-11 for access to bring in the poles remains in good shape. 5/4/06. -Ruts were noted in the access road due to heavy equipment. 4/6-5/4/06.	- The streambed and water main remain protected. 3/23-5/4/06.  -This should be restored eventually. 5/4/06.	-N/A  -N/A at this time
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	- Stone dust access roads are in place to the south of Perry Ave and north of Broad St. 4/6-5/4/06.	- Controls are in place. 5/4/06.	- N/A at this time
	- A gravel entrance pad was in place north of Broad St. 5/4/06.	- None at this time. 5/4/06.	- N/A
	-Work to the north of Perry Ave is also	- None at this time. 5/4/06.	-N/A

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	accessed off the paved cul-de-sac at April Ln. 5/4/06		
Line Construction <b>Composite</b>	-Crews are working to pull rope through the structures in preparation to pull wire. 5/4/06.	-None at this time. 5/4/06.	-N/A
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	-All poles are in place in the Chestnut Ridge section. Blocks remain installed in preparation for pulling lines 4/26-5/4/06.	- None at this time. 5/4/06.	-N/A
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	-Temporary wooden rider or guard poles were in place at roadways 5/4/06.	-None at this time. 5/4/06.	-N/A
	- Foundation work and structure installation continue near Broad St. 5/4/06	-See erosion controls section for more information. 5/4/06.	-N/A
	- Temporary wooden rider or guard poles were installed here as well. 5/4/06	- None at this time. 5/4/06	- N/A
	- Structures are being installed and old structures are being removed off of Perry Ave and Arrowhead Road. 5/4/06.	- None at this time. 5/4/06	- N/A
Erosion and Sediment Controls	- Water levels appear to remain low at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-5/4/06.	- None at this time. 5/4/06.	-N/A
<b>Composite</b>	- Silt fence had contained sediment from run-off down the access road but erosion was noted here. 4/26-5/4/06	-Continue to monitor and install more controls if necessary. 4/26-5/4/06	- N/A at this time
Erosion controls continued	- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3 <sup>rd</sup> wetland area. Haybales had been placed but ruts	- Damage to the wetland should be repaired if feasible. 2/16-5/4/06. At this point, it may be more	-N/A

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Erosion controls continued	in the wetland remain. 3/2-5/4/06.  - Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-5/4/06. Another area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/4/06.	damaging to enter the wetland. 5/4/06  -Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&M plan. 2/22-5/4/06. - Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-5/4/06.	-Still needs attention (CL&P is looking into a solution here)
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>  Chestnut Ridge Section	-The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-5/4/06.  - The silt fence by structure #9 should remain maintained in this area. 4/6-5/4/06.  - Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 4/6-5/4/06.	- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-5/4/06.  - Continue to monitor and maintain silt fence here until the area is stabilized. 4/6-5/4/06.  - Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 4/6-5/4/06.	- Needs attention when feasible  -N/A at the time  -N/A
Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	- Mats remain well in place over the stream between poles #10-11. Erosion controls remain well installed at the "corners" and along the second wet area. 3/29-5/4/06.	- None at this time. Continue to monitor this area due to heavy use and maintain as needed. 4/6-5/4/06.	- N/A.
Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way	-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #29. 3/2-4/6-5/4/06.  -Silt fence remains in good shape around the poles and foundations at	-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and install silt fence as needed. 3/2-5/4/06.  -Continue to monitor the erosion controls and stabilize when feasible.	-N/A at this time  N/A at this time

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Norwalk Section	a number of structure locations. 5/4/06.	5/4/06.	
	-Erosion controls remain intact at poles #24 and 25. 5/4/06.	- The washout was repaired last week. Maintain controls until area is stabilized. 5/4/06	-The silt fence was repaired
	-The silt fence at the foundations off Perry Ave. remained in good shape at the time of inspection. 5/4/06.	-Continue to maintain the silt fence in this area and utilize it as a limit of work due to the proximity of the channel. 5/4/06.	-N/A.
	- Silt fence remained in place at several locations north of Broad St. The silt fence adjacent to the river had been repaired. 5/4/06.	- Continue to maintain fence due to its proximity to resource areas. 5/4/06.	-Silt fence was repaired.
	- The silt fence adjacent to structure #974 /11078 off Broad St was restored even though work here continues. 5/4/06	-None at this time. Continue to monitor. 5/4/06	- Silt fence was restored.
	-The silt fence at the structure off Arrowhead Road remains in good shape. 5/4/06.	- Continue to maintain the silt fence in this area. 5/4/06.	-N/A
	- A foundation installation near the Norwalk substation resulted in soil disturbance. Silt fence was being installed after the fact. 5/4/06.	- Silt fence was being installed at the time of inspection but should be placed prior to soil disturbance. 5/4/06	- Silt fence was being installed.
	- Silt fence also needs repair where the trees were previously placed on it. 5/4/06	-Fence should be repaired in the area of the tree clearing but the remainder of this section to Broad St. is non-jurisdictional. 5/4/06.	-Repairs were going to be made.
Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and	-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have	- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so	-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
mitigation	worked well. 4/6-5/4/06.	the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-5/4/06.	
<b>Composite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-5/4/06.</li> <li>- Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-5/4/06.</li> <li>- Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas or adjacent to streams in this section as well. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 1/19-5/4/06.</li> <li>-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-5/4/06.</li> <li>- At structure #6, most of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-5/4/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The damage to the 3<sup>rd</sup> wetland should be repaired if feasible but it may be more damaging to go in at this time. 5/4/06.</li> <li>- The crossing could also use some clean stone if necessary which may help reduce additional sediment deposits. 1/4-4/6-5/4/06.</li> <li>- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible. 3/2-5/4/06.</li> <li>- If damage is noted during the spring, the previously created ruts should be repaired if possible. 3/9/06-5/4/06.</li> <li>- Try to leave shrubs and low growth where possible, especially at stream buffers. 2/2-5/4/06.</li> <li>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-5/4/06.</li> <li>- Continue to remove entire pile. Conditions may be too muddy at this time. 2/16-5/4/06.</li> </ul>	-N/A
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>			Efforts to retain lower growth have been noted in this section.
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Foundations being installed are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies and most controls are in good shape. 5/4/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continue to monitor. 5/4/06.</li> </ul>	-Efforts to retain lower growth have been noted in this section.
State species of concern, threatened and	- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle	- Now that weather is warmer, it is time to recommence daily	-N/A at this time

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
endangered species	<p>habitat area. 9/15-5/4/06.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting but is likely emerging from hibernation. 4/6-5/4/06.</p>	walkthroughs prior to work. 4/6-5/4/06.	
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p>	<p>- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-5/4/06.</p> <p>- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3<sup>rd</sup> structure off Gallows Hill. These areas are off property. 2/22-4/26/06.</p> <p>-This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/4/06.</p> <p>-Clearing was not actively occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane. 5/4/06.</p>	<p>-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-5/4/06.</p> <p>-Replace shrubs where necessary. 5/4/06</p> <p>- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&amp;M plan. 2/22-4/26/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-5/4/06.</p> <p>- To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-5/4/06</p>	<p>- Still needs attention CL&amp;P is looking into this.</p> <p>- CL&amp;P proposed the work under these specs.</p>
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	<p>-In all sections make efforts to retain shrubs, especially in wetland areas. Efforts have been noted in some areas but could have improved in others. 3/15-5/4/06.</p>	<p>-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&amp;M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-5/4/06.</p>	-N/A
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	<p>-The ROW areas near Broad Street and Perry Ave have been cleared. 5/4/06.</p> <p>-Two cleared corridors are present into Norwalk</p>	<p>- None at this time. 5/4/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 5/4/06</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	Junction. 5/4/06.		
Dewatering	- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted. 5/4/06.	- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 3/9-5/4/06.	-N/A at this time
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 5/4/06.	-None at this time. 5/4/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection. 3/15-5/4/06.	- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.	-N/A
Additional Observations			

**Next likely scheduled inspection:**

Wednesday May 10, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**Inspector's Signature:**

Diana Walden for Lee Curtis



**(Composite Section-Archers Lane): Photo on the left shows a view of third wetland crossing. Erosion controls remain intact but the wetland has not been restored. It may no longer be necessary. Photo on the right shows one of the areas off the ROW where wood chips have not been raked or removed. 5/04/06**



**Photo on the left shows a view of the ROW looking toward Gallows Hill. Blocks have been installed on all structures and crews continue to pull rope through in these sections. Photo on the right shows the multiple spools of rope used in this process. 5/04/06.**



**(345kV H-Frame):** Photo on the left shows the small pools located between structures #19 and 21. Erosion controls are still functioning well here. Photo on the right shows a view of the stream crossing between structures #10 and 11. 5/04/06.



**Photo on the left shows a view of the remaining stockpile at structure #6. Photo on the right shows a view of Hoyts Hill from the Chestnut Ridge Section. 5/04/06.**



**Photo on the left shows a view of the disturbed area at pole #9. Silt fence is in need of repair here. Photo on the right shows the work area at pole #25 located off Lime Kiln Road. Silt fence was repaired and there have been no further washouts. 5/04/06.**



**Photo on the left shows a view of Pole #24 located off John Todd Way. Photo on the right shows a view of the wetland crossing at Costa Lane. 5/04/06.**



**Norwalk Section: Both photos show the structure foundation being installed adjacent to the river near the Norwalk substation. Silt fence was being installed at the time of inspection. 5/04/06.**



**Photo on the left shows where structures are being removed off Arrowhead Rd. Photo on the right shows the structure in place on the foundation south of Perry Ave. 5/04/06**



**Broad St: Photo on the left shows the gravel entrance pad installed to the north of Broad St. Photo on the right shows where the silt fence was restored adjacent to the river following the flooding. 5/04/06**



**Photo on the left shows where the temporary wooden riser/guard poles were being installed along Broad St. Photo on the right shows where the silt fence was restored adjacent to structure #11078, even with the small workspace. 5/04/06**